GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services - Revenue Department - Vigilance Reports - Allegations against Sri. J.Seetharamarao, the then District Manager, APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam - Disciplinary proceedings under rule - 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification Control Appeal) Rules, 1991 - Articles of charge - Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.917 **Dated: 09.10.2023**

Read:

G.O.Ms.No.189, Revenue (Vigilance. I) Dept., Dt: 26.06.2020

ORDER:

In pursuance to the G.O read above, it is proposed to hold an enquiry against Sri.J.Seetharamarao, the then District Manager, APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification Control Appeal) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in respect of which the enquiry are proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of Articles of Charges (Annexure - I). A list of documents by which, and a list of witnesses by whom the articles of charges are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure-II III).

3. Sri.J.Seetharamarao, the then District Manager, APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam is directed to submit a written statement of his defense within 10 days of receipt of this order.

4. Sri.J.Seetharamarao, the then District Manager, APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those articles of charges as are not admitted. He should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each article of charge.

5. Sri.J.Seetharamarao, the then District Manager, APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam is further informed that if they do not submit his written statement of defense on or before the date specified in para 3 above further action will be processed based on the material available.

6. Attention of Sri.J.Seetharamarao, the then District Manager, APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam invited to Rule 24 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules 1964 under which no Government Servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interest in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt within these proceedings, it will be presumed that Sri.J.Seetharamarao, the then District Manager, APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule 24 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules 1964.

7. The receipt of the Memorandum may be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G. SAI PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri. J.Seetharamarao, the then District Manager, APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam (Through the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, A.P., Mangalagiri for service and to return the served copy with dated acknowledgement immediately (By RPAD))
The Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, A.P., Mangalagiri.
Copy to:
The District Collector Srikakulam District
SF/SC

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI.J.SEETHARAMARAO, THE THEN DISTRICT MANAGER, APSCSC LTD., SRIKAKULAM

Articles of Charges-I:-

That, Sri.J.Seetha Rama Rao, being a responsible Govt. officer, while working as a District Manager, APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam has failed to inspect Paddy Purchasing Centers and designated Rice Mills in his jurisdiction and also failed to supervise the work of subordinate staff under his control during the season 2014-15 which resulted in causing loss of Rs. Rs.3,48,73,266/- (Rupees Three Crore Forty Eight Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty Six only) to the Govt Ex-Chequer towards the value of 893.387MTs of Paddy, though the paddy was not actually procured from Sri Sasanapuri Murali Krishna who is owner of M/s Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill, Mogalipadu Village, Palasa Mandal, Srikakulam District. Thereby misappropriated the funds of the Govt., to a tune of Rs.3,48,73,266/- (Rupees Three Crore Forty-Eight Lakhs Seventy-Three Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty-Six only) being the value of 893.387MTs of Paddy.

Thus, Sri.J.Seetha Rama Rao, the then District Manager, APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam by his above mentioned acts, has shown laxity, indiscipline in attending official duties and exhibited lack of devotion to duty and there by contravened Rule 3(1)(2)(3)(4) (5) of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

G. SAI PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

L.S. Naidu
SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATIONS OF MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOUR BY WHICH THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI.J.SEETHARAMARAO, THE THEN DISTRICT MANAGER, APSCSC LTD., SRIKAKULAM ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

In the Vigilance Report No.24 (C.No.422/V E/CS/2017, dt: 15.03.2019), it is stated that based on the petition of Sri.Malla Ganesh, Palasa relating to irregularities committed by Sri Sasanapuri Murali Krishna, Proprietor of M/s Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill, Mogalipadu (V), Palasa Mandal, Srikakulam District in Custom Milling Rice (CMR) entrusted by A.P.S.C.S.Corp.Ltd., Srikakulam who caused pecuniary loss to Govt by embezzling the paddy with the influence of the local political leaders.

Details of the Enquiry conducted by the V&E officials: -

The V&E officials obtained required information from D.M., APSCSC, Srikakulam, DSO, Srikakulam, Tahsildars of Palasa and Vajrapukotturu, Agricultural VROs concerned and also conducted field enquiries on the genuineness of farmers and further visited the following subject Rice Mills.

1) M/s Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill, Mogilipadu
2) M/s Kalammathalli Traders C/o SKR Modern Rice Mill, Palasa (V) (M), Srikakulam (Dist.).

Facts & Evidences: -

That during 2014-15 seasons, the paddy procurement activity was under taken by the APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam and 116 Rice Millers have been approved as designated Rice Millers for entrustment of Custom Milling Activity. Among them, M/s Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill, Mogalipadu Village, Palasa Mandal, Srikakulam District was one which was entrusted the paddy for custom Milling Rice during the year 2014-15 as detailed below:-

M/s Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill, Mogalipadu, Palasa Mandal: -

Paddy issued to Rice Mill during 2014-15 in M.Ts	Resultant rice to be delivered 67% in M.Ts	CM Rice so far delivered as per records in M.Ts	CM Rice due from the Rice Miller in M.Ts	Economic cost Of the C.M.R. due in Lakhs
4874.00	3265.580	2372.193	893.387	Rs.348.73 Lakh

that the V&E officials have verified the connected documents and further enquired the reasons for non-delivery of the CMR during 2014-15 season and also enquired into the facts on the allegations against the erred Rice Miller, which revealed as follows: -

1. That on 22.09.2017, the officials of V&E Dept., conducted surprise inspection of M/s Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill, Mogalipadu, Palasa Mandal, Srikakulam District in the presence of the owner Sri Sasanapuri Murali Krishna, which revealed that the said Rice Mill was approved by the then Collector (CS), Srikakulam as designated Rice Mill during the season 2014-15. The Physical verification of mill revealed that there is no quantity of either CMR paddy or CMR Rice. The Mill owner accepted that he has to deliver to APCSC to an extent of 893.387 M.Ts Rice Worth Rs.3,48,73,266/-.

2. That the agreement entered into by the District Manager, APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam dated: 28.11.2014 with the 07 stipulated conditions.

3. That two (02) Procurement Centers in Palasa Mandal and one (01) Paddy Purchase Center in Vajrapukotturu Mandal were said to have been opened during the year 2014-15 as detailed below: -

SL.No.	Name of the PPC	No. of Rice Mills attached	Procurement entrusted
1	Palasa	09 Rice Mills, including Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill, Mogalipadu	Primary Agrl.Coop.Society, Palasa
		7 Rice Mills, Excluding Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill, Mogalipadu	Village Organisation, IKP, Brahmanatarla, Palasa (M).
2	Vajrapukotturu	02 Rice Mills, excluding Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill, Mogalipadu	Primary Agrl.Coop.Society, Vajrapukotturu

							SB account and paid to the Mill Owner as per his request. He denied the signatures on the PPC documents.
2	Arli Danesh S/ Ramana, Garudabhadra	PACS, Palasa	16.84	400	SBI, Palasa	5,44,000/-	The individual has not done any cultivation activity and he has not supplied paddy to the PPC
3	M.Narayana S/o Kannayya, Marripadu (V)	PACS, Palasa	17.52	322	SBI, Palasa	4,50,800/	The individual has not done any cultivation activity and he has not supplied paddy to the PPC.
4	Paidi Krishna Rao S/o Karanna, Kedaripuram (V)	PACS, Palasa	17.52	400	SBI, Palasa	5,44,000/-	The individual has not done any cultivation activity and he has not supplied paddy to the PPC.
5	Paidi Satyam S/o Krishna Rao, Kedaripuram	PACS Palasa	13.51	216	Andhra Bank, Kasibugga	7,34,400/-	The individual has not done any cultivation activity and he has not supplied paddy to the PPC.
6	Guggilapu Srinivasa Rao S/o Ramana	PACS Palasa	15.60	256	Union Bank, Kasibugga	3,48,000/-	The individual has not done any cultivation activity and he has not supplied paddy to the PPC.
7	Metta Ramakrishna S/o Lxminarayana	PACS Palasa	15.00	252	SBI, Palasa	8,42,720/-	The individual has not done any cultivation activity and he has not

							supplied paddy to the PPC.
8	Pinakana Tulasamma W/o Anantha Chinanchila	PACS Palasa	17.52	560	SBI, Palasa	7,61,600/-	The individual has not done any cultivation activity and he has not supplied paddy to the PPC.
9	Arli Lakshmi W/o Tirupathi Rao, Garudahadra	PACS, Palasa	14.50	550	SBI, Palasa	7,48,000	The individual has not done any cultivation activity and he has not supplied paddy to the PPC.
10	Konchada Mohana Rao S/o Suryanarayana	PACS, Palasa	14.50	420	SBI, Palasa	5,71,200	The individual has not done any cultivation activity and he has not supplied paddy to the PPC.

The V&E officials further obtained the versions from the Rice Mill Owner and Nine (09) officials relating to enquiry and rebutted and out of them, the version of Sri.J.Seetharama Rao, the then District Manager, Civil Supplies Corp., Srikakulam and the rebuttal of the V&E are mentioned below:-

Version of Sri.J.Seetharama Rao, the then District Manager, Civil Supplies Corp., Srikakulam	Rebuttal of V&E
He stated that he was incharge District Manager, APSCSCS, Ltd., Srikakulam from 05.01.2015 to 04.11.2015. During the year 2014-15, M/s Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill was entrusted Custom Milling of 4874 MTs paddy for milling. He further stated that he vigorously pursued with the Rice Mill owner for timely handing over of CMR and got delivery of 104.382 MTs as against 3265.58 MTs. Subsequently at the end of the season, he was relived from the post of DMCS, Srikakulam and further stated he did not conduct inspection of PPCs or any Rice Mills during his tenure as District Manager.	Inspite of unambiguous guidelines of the Govt in procurement of Paddy and CMR during the year 2014-15 2015-16, the said officer has failed to inspect and supervise the PPCs and Designated Rice Mills in his jurisdiction, due to which the Rice Millers have misappropriated the Paddy Stocks causing huge loss to the Govt.

Findings:-

The Rice Mill i.e., M/s Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill, Mogalipadu Village, Palasa Mandal was one of the rice mill identified as designated Rice Mill for Custom Milling during the year 2014-15 season for paddy procurement. The owner of the said Rice Mill was obtained the copies of Aadhar, Bank Pass Book (SB account) etc., from his relatives, mill workers as well of his group of people, who are not farmers and not done any agriculture activity and influenced the Staff of the Primary Agricultural Coop.Society, Vajrapukotturu and Village Organisation, Velugu-IKP staff and committed fraud jointly by fabricated the records of PPC Center and got prepared the papers at PPC by forged the signatures of persons by the Rice Miller and also influenced the concerned VRO, Agri.Extension Officers of Palasa and Vajrapukotturu Mandals and obtained false certificates (Paddy Cultivation Certificates and Analysis Reports) and prepared the claims, as if the paddy was supplied by his relatives, Mill workers as well as his group of people was genuinely supplied by farmers.

The owner of the said Rice Mill was also managed/influenced the then District Manager, APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam and his staff for extending cooperation to his unlawful activities and for accepting the false claims prepared by him, and got the payment arranged for an amount of Rs.6,63,34,480/- during the year 2014-15, towards the value of paddy supplied by his 145 fictitious farmers.

Further, the persons, in whose names the Mill Owner has raised the fictitious claims, have disclosed that they have not done any agriculture activity and they are not having land property and also accepted that they have not supplied any paddy to the PPCs. Sri Sasanapuri Murali Krishna, owner of M/s Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill, Mogalipadu, Palasa Mandal have obtained their aadhar cards and Bank (SB) account details only and that they accepted that they have not signed on any claims at PPC. Later, the owner has requested them to withdraw the funds in their accounts and to handover him, accordingly, they paid the funds to the owner.

The then DM, APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam furnished to the V E that out of 4874.00 MTs of paddy supplied to the said Rice Miller, the resultant rice 3265.580 MTs (67%) has to be handed over to the Corporation, but, only 2372.193 MTs have been returned, leaving a balance of 893.387 MTs during the season 2014- 15 and the economic cost of the misappropriated cost paddy arrived at Rs.3,48,73,266/- and that the APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam and that a Criminal Complaint was lodged against M/s Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill in the SHO, Palasa Kasibugga vide FIR.No.97/2016 u/s 420, 403 and 406 IPC and the mill was black listed.

The V E enquiry revealed that Sri Sasanapuri Murali Krishna, owner of M/s Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill was managed officials of the APCSC, Srikakulam and other Revenue Officials of Srikakulam District as well as staff of PPCs for his personal gain and misappropriated the paddy causing loss to the Govt and that the owner of the Rice Miller filed the WP.No.41569/2016 and WP.No.854/2007 in the Hon'ble High Court of AP, Telangana seeking relief for disposal of his representation pending with the respondent and the said Writ Petitions were disposed with a direction to the District Manager, APSCSC, Srikakulam to dispose the representations and accordingly, appropriate action has taken by the DMCS, Srikakulam.

Summary of findings of the V&E in their Report.No.24:-

1. Sri Sasanapuri Murali Krishna, owner of M/s Murali Krishna Modern Rice Mill, Mogilipadu, Palasa Mandal with his influences has managed the officials and staff of APSCSC Ltd., Srikakulam and committed malpractises in Procurement of Paddy and entrustment to his Rice Mill for Custom Milling during the year 2014-15 and misappropriated the funds of the Govt to a tune of Rs.3,48,73,266/- being the value of 893.387 MTs of paddy, which is the allegation leveled by the petitioner one Sri Malla Ganesh, Palasa, is substantiated.

2. Moreover the DMCS, Srikakulam have failed to initiate appropriate action for timely recovery of the CMR form the default millers and also failed to initiate the timely criminal action against the errant Rice Mill owners for their lapses by violating the agreement conditions and misappropriation of paddy under CMR in Srikakulam District during the period from 2012-13 to 2014-15 and caused loss to the Govt and the reasons for inaction on the part of the District Managers of APSCSC., Srikakulam are best known to him.

The V&E finally recommended against Sri J.Seetharamarao, the then District Manager as follows:-

Sl.No.	Nature of fraud	Amount of Loss caused	Action Recommended
1	Failed to supervise the PPC for the year 2014-15 causing misappropriation of Govt.funds being the 893.387 M.Ts	-	Action as deemed fit under CC A Rules

Hence, the charge.

G. SAI PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI.J.SEETHARAMARAO, THE THEN DISTRICT MANAGER, GO RT/611/2023/REV01-Revenue APSCSC LTD., SRIKAKULAM ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

---

1) Vigilance report No. 50 (C.No.371//V&E/D1/2017), GA (V&E) Dept Dt: 29/05/2019.

G. SAI PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-IV

LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHOM THE ARTICLES OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI.J.SEETHARAMARAO, THE THEN DISTRICT MANAGER, APSCSC LTD., SRIKAKULAM ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

-NIL-

G. SAI PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER